

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. WILLIAM DALE  
GIBBS

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2011*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Mr. William Gibbs a veteran of World War II who passed into glory on 19 October 2011.

The youngest son of John and Maimi Gibbs, William Dale Gibbs was born on 21 June 1926 in Salem, Missouri, in the heart of the Ozarks. Like many in those years, Mr. Gibbs' parent found work hard to come by and eventually moved the family to St. Louis to find employment.

At the age 18, with World War II still raging, Mr. Gibbs enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, 325th Glider Regiment. The 82nd was the Army's first Airborne Division. Mr. Gibbs and his unit played a lead role in blunting the German advance during the Battle of the Bulge. He and his unit saw heavy fighting, suffering heavy casualties, throughout World War II.

Mr. Gibbs saw and experienced many things during his service in Europe, but none seemed to impact him as much as the following . . .

“ . . . Upon completion of their objectives, the division moved again towards the Rhine River and Cologne. From there, the order of duty was to push forward into the Rhineland, and then moved again towards Berlin, winding up in a town called Ludwigslust. Here they captured a concentration camp (Camp Wobbelin) which held several thousand prisoners, many were already dead and the remaining were in very poor condition. The survivors were so elated, they were out of control. Their weak mental conditions coupled with the language barrier made it very difficult to administer to their needs. Out of respect for the prisoners, General [James “Jumpin’ Jim”] Gavin ordered a proper burial of the dead prisoners in the center of town. A formal memorial and burial service was conducted by the 325th division Chaplin, Major [George B.] Wood. The German townspeople were forced to dig the graves and attend the service. There were approximately 10,000 Germans in attendance.

After the encounter at Concentration Camp Wobbelin, the unit moved ahead towards the Elbe River. They had great pleasure in liberating some POW camps along the way. The soldiers were reunited with some of the 82nd Airborne Division who had been POWs captured in Italy over a year before.”

According to his son, David, Mr. Gibbs retold this story many times over his life. It was during his earliest memory of this story that David first saw his father cry.

Like so many of his generation, at the end of the war, Mr. Gibbs returned home, married and went to work. After completing his education and finding employment with Inter-

national Shoe Company, he married Shirley Mae Warfel and together they raised a family of three boys and a girl—though they experienced the loss of their first born to leukemia at age five.

The passing of William Dale Gibbs reminds me that all too soon we will lose the World War II generation to history. While we may be losing them, we should not lose their stories and the lessons they teach; one of which is there are, in fact, things for which we should fight, and if necessary, die to preserve and protect.

On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you Mr. Gibbs for your service and sacrifice in Europe; and for returning home and raising sons and a daughter who were so very proud to call you “Dad”.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF GUAM DURING WORLD WAR II

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Guam and the beginning of the Pacific theater of World War II. In the early morning of December 10, 1941, two days after the aerial attacks on Pearl Harbor and Sumay Village, soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army invaded the shores of Guam.

The Japanese invasion faced resistance at the Plaza de Espata in Hagota by the members of the Guam Insular Guard, who were recruited by the Navy eight months prior to the invasion of Guam. With limited military training, and lightly armed, the Insular Guard was all that stood between the invaders and our people. The Guam Insular Guard fought with great courage in defense of our island but they were overwhelmed in a short time by the superior numbers and arms of the invasion force. This encounter marked the only ground battle against the invading Japanese force on Guam. Shortly thereafter that early morning, U.S. Naval Captain George J. McMillin, Naval Governor of Guam, and a handful of U.S. sailors, surrendered the island to the Japanese Army.

These events marked the beginning of the Japanese occupation on Guam for the next thirty two months. The occupation of Guam was marked by abuse and violence against the people of Guam including forced labor, forced marches, internment in camps, injuries and executions. Throughout the occupation, the people of Guam remained patriotic to America and never lost faith that U.S. forces would return to liberate our island. While we can never truly comprehend the suffering endured by our manamko' (elders) during the Japanese occupation, we continue to honor them for who they are, what they have endured, and how they have impacted our lives and our community.

As we commemorate this solemn anniversary, we pay tribute to these Insular Guardsmen for their courage and bravery. We also acknowledge Guam's greatest generation, those who endured the war and survived. Lastly, we pray for the civilians who died during the war and the members of the U.S. armed forces who fought to liberate our island. We must never forget their suffering and their sacrifices during the brutal occupation and liberation. God bless Guam and God bless the United States of America.

SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATING JANUARY 5TH AS NATIONAL BIRD DAY

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2011*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for designating January 5th as “National Bird Day.” I also wish for my colleagues to consider the following:

That the beauty, songs, and flight of birds have long been sources of inspiration, and that nearly 12 percent of the world's 9,800 bird species may face extinction within the next century, including nearly one-third of the world's 330 parrot species;

That birds are sentinel species whose plight serves as a barometer of ecosystem health and an alert system for detecting global environmental ills;

That many of the world's parrots and songbirds are threatened with extinction due to pressures from the illegal pet trade, disease, and habitat loss;

That public awareness and education about the physical and behavioral needs of birds can go far in improving the welfare of the millions of birds kept in captivity, and that the survival and well-being of the world's birds depends upon ending the illegal pet trade and supporting public education and conservation;

Finally, that the United States Congress has enacted specific laws to protect birds, including the Wild Bird Conservation Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and that January 5, 2012 is being celebrated by Born Free USA as National Bird Day with the intent to raise awareness about bird conservation and protection.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me to support the designation of January 5th as National Bird Day and to encourage their State and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities that promote bird awareness. Furthermore, I encourage all avian experts and professionals working with birds to use this day to create greater public awareness and appreciation of birds, leading to further protection of bird species. Finally, I encourage individuals across the Nation to become more aware of their local avian community so they can be more effective stewards of bird conservation.

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